

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

|                 |                                 |                         |                |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| COUNTRY         | East Germany                    | REPORT                  |                |
| TOPIC           | Merseburg Airfield              |                         |                |
| EVALUATION      |                                 | PLACE OBTAINED          |                |
| DATE OF CONTENT |                                 |                         | 25X1           |
| DATE OBTAINED   |                                 | DATE PREPARED           | 19 August 1955 |
| REFERENCES      |                                 |                         |                |
| PAGES           | 2                               | ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) | 25X1           |
| REMARKS         | This is UNEVALUATED Information |                         |                |
|                 | 25X1                            |                         |                |

1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Merseburg airfield between 17 and 20 July 1955:

17 July. Three Po-2s coming from the southeast landed at the field. No additional air activity was observed throughout the day.

18 July. Between 0850 and 1130, a helicopter made individual local flights. The aircraft was of the same type as the one previously used for parachute jumping. It had a four-bladed rotor, a four-wheel landing gear of which the rear wheels were larger in diameter than the front wheels, a box-shaped rounded-off cabin with 3 round cabin windows at the side. The upper side of the cabin faired into the tail, at the end of which was a small propeller over a small elevator assembly at the starboard side. Six Po-2s and 2 Yak-14s made local flights during the same hours of observation. At about 1830, these 8 aircraft took off heading east. At 2000, 4 local flights were made by jet fighters.

19 July. Four Li-2s approaching in line-abreast formation from the east and another 2 Li-2s landed at 1730. The pilots obviously had difficulties while landing due to poor visibility. The gliding for landing was performed irregularly and the approach flight was done in wavy lines.

20 July. The Li-2s that had landed on the preceding day took off at 1830 heading east. Between 2005 and 2130, night flying was practiced by jet fighters.

17, 19 and 20 July. One helicopter and 28 jet fighters were regularly observed on the landing field. Five aircraft were parked on the dispersal area of the alert flight. The helicopter was parked southwest of the eastern hangar. The southeastern hangar was closed, but through its windows the shadows of rudders were observed. From this observation it was inferred that the two Il-28s stationed at the field were parked in this hangar. <sup>1</sup>

2. The following observations were made in the Merseburg military post: The occupation strength was still estimated at 1,500 men wearing black-bordered blue epaulets and 150 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets. It was noted that there were many new faces, in particular among the officers, whose total strength was estimated at 200.

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET

25X1

-2-

Most of the EM were between 22 and 27 years old, all without grade chevrons. The NCOs and sergeants were about 30 years old and many of them wore war decorations. The dependents observed included many more young women without children than ~~were~~ formerly noted. Most of the dependents were European Russians, such as Ukrainians, Baltics, and White Russians.

3. The AA gun emplacement was still occupied by 6 AA guns, presumably 75 mm, which were covered with tarpaulins except for the barrels, which had no muzzle brakes. <sup>2</sup>

25X1

4.

1. Comment. It is believed that Merseburg airfield is still occupied by a fighter division headquarters and a fighter regiment. Only little air activity was observed. A type-36 helicopter and 28 jet fighters were observed on the landing field.

25X1

2. Comment. AA guns of medium caliber have previously been observed in the AA gun emplacement.

25X1

SECRET